

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192686

FOLLOWING REPEAT RIO DE JANEIRO 2922 ACTION SECSTATE CARACAS

INFO BRASILIA COLOMBO USUN NEW YORK 2 AUG 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 2922

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROGERS AND IO-BAKER FROM FRANK

BRASILIA FOR FRANK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG AR EGEN

SUBJECT: REPORT ON BRIEF VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES

1. I SPENT SATURDAY EVENING IN BUENOS AIRES WITH WALTER KLEIN, THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. KLEIN, A YOUNG MAN, PROBABLY MIDDLE THIRTIES, HAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH MINISTER DE HOZ AND TOOK UP HIS JOB WITH DE HOZ ON THE DAY OF THE COUP.

2. KLEIN WAS MOST INTERESTED IN AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES BANK PROPOSAL. HE HOPED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD PRESENT THE PROPOSAL IN A WAY THAT WOULD BE APPEALING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE THOUGHT THAT ONE WAY THAT THIS MIGHT BE DONE WOULD BE FOR THE IRB TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN GATHERING INFORMATION ON AND ANALYZING
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THE FEASIBILITY OF MINERAL PROJECTS. KLEIN SEEMED PLEASED TO

HEAR THAT BUFFER STOCK FINANCING WAS NOT AN IMPORTANT PART OF TRB PROPOSAL AND INDICATED THAT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND BUFFER STOCKS. KLEIN WAS ANXIOUS TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSAL AND SAID THAT ARGENTINA MIGHT WANT TO MAKE SOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS WHEN THEY RECEIVED A MORE DETAILED PRESENTATION.

3. KLEIN WAS NEITHER INTERESTED IN OR KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT UNCTAD FOLLOW UP MEETINGS, FURTHER EVIDENCE OF CONSERVATIVE ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY THAT KLEIN AND HIS MINISTRY SEEM TO REPRESENT. HE SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD HAVE A KEY ROLE IN THE FUTURE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES AND WOULD HAVE THE ACTION, ALONG WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON THE IRB AND ON THE ILLICIT PAYMENTS ISSUE WHICH I DISCUSSED WITH HIM AT SAM LEWIS'S REQUEST (KLEIN'S REACTION ON ILLICITY PAYMENTS AND THE ECOSOC MEETING IS REPORTED IN SEPTEL FROM LEWIS TO MEYERSON).

4. FOR IO. AT SAM LEWIS' REQUEST, I ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF PUERTO RICO AND HOW THIS WOULD BE PLANED AT BOTH THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND IN THE UNGA. HE SAID THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS SENDING A VERY LOW LEVEL DELEGATION TO COLOMBO. THE DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR FROM INDIA, A MAN CHOSEN DELIBERATELY TO DEMONSTRATE ARGENTINA'S LACK OF INTEREST IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, DESPITE ITS CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOVEMENT. SINCE ARGENTINA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN COLOMBO, I SUGGESTED TO KLEIN THAT I HOPED ARGENTINA WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTIONS AT THE UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. HE ASSURED ME THAT ARGENTINA WOULD NOT BE BOUND.

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